



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

The persistent Communist shelling of Saigon is beginning to provoke demands by local politicians for retaliation against Hanoi. In its session yesterday, the Assembly's upper house approved a petition calling on the government to take all steps to prevent further attacks, including a warning to North Vietnam. The debate brought demands for "a bomb on Hanoi for every bomb on Saigon" and for immediate US termination of the Paris talks.

2. France

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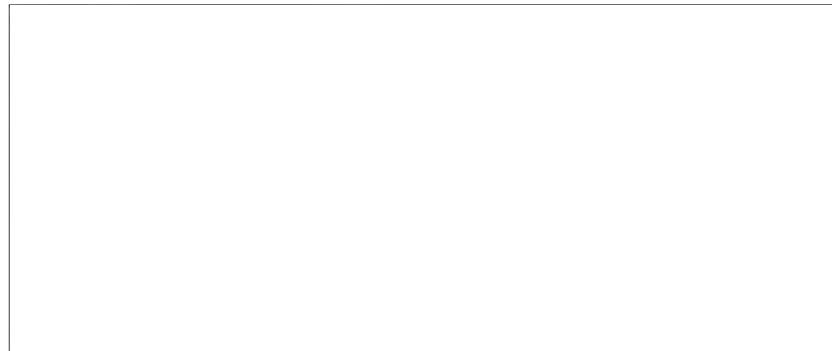
3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev has been out of action now for three weeks. We doubt he has been hospitalized,

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Czechs and Russians are going around and around again. This time it is over an article in a Czech newspaper (actually a reprint from the New York Times) alleging that Soviet officials were involved in the defection of General Sejna. Moscow says the piece was printed with the "one aim" of worsening Soviet-Czech relations; by implication it demands restoration of Czech press censorship, which was formally lifted last week.

6. East and West
Germany

The Ulbricht regime has adopted new regulations which say that West Germans will need visas to enter East Germany. West Berliners, however, will apparently need to procure only an "annex" to their identity cards--a move intended to emphasize that West Berlin is not a part of the Federal Republic.

The new regulations are evidently intended more to enhance "legal" East German control over inter-German travel than to restrict such travel. If the East Germans succeed in implementing these regulations, their claims to sovereignty will be advanced, Bonn's claim to represent all Germans will be shattered, and the allied position in Berlin will be weakened in proportion to the amount of authority assumed by the East Germans.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US Political Attitudes

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho Speaks Out: Le Duc Tho, special adviser to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, utilized several of the standard Hanoi formulations in giving his views of the Paris talks to Charles Collingwood. In the interview he charged that the blame for the lack of progress in the discussions clearly rests on the US. He said that the North Vietnamese had come to Paris to "determine" with the US the unconditional cessation of the bombing. Tho stressed that until the "US gives up its viewpoint of reciprocity" and effects such a cessation, it will not be possible to proceed to the discussion of other problems.

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Liberation Front on Outside Aid: According to a gist of a statement by the Liberation Front presidium, broadcast over the Hanoi domestic radio on 11 June, the Front rejected the "US slanderous allegations on the South Vietnam problem at the Paris talks." The new Liberation Front statement also revived an old propaganda theme which has been dormant for years--the issue of foreign volunteers. The statement claimed that although the South Vietnamese people are relying mainly on their own strength, they "have the right to receive assistance in all aspects from their kith and kin northern compatriots." It also asserted that the "South Vietnamese people to date have reserved and in the future will reserve for themselves the right to appeal for and receive assistance in all aspects from their friends in the world, including assistance in weapons and volunteers."

This kind of language is similar to that used by the Hanoi leadership in recent weeks on the subject

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of North Vietnamese Army presence in South Vietnam. It goes to great lengths to justify such a presence, without admitting that the North Vietnamese are actually there.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing significant to report today.

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